(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to remove certain stretches of the rail network under the Palakkad railway division to be attached to the proposed new Salem division; and

(b) if so, the present length of rail network under the Palakkad division and the length of the rail route proposed to be removed from this division and what is minimum length of route specified for a division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Present length of rail network under the Palakkad division is 1132 Kilometres. The length of the rail route proposed to be removed from the Palakkad division is 623 Kilometres. There is no specified minimum length of route for a Division.

Travelling without tickets

†532. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ministers and Members of Parliament whose family members and relatives hae been caught without ticket while travelling during the last three months;

(b) the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) the details of action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Some incidents of travelling without ticket/irregular travel by family members and relatives of Ministers and Members of Parliament have come to notice. Such cases are dealt with as per extant provisions of Railways Act, 1989. However, no separate statistics is maintained in this regard.

Research and Development activities in Railways

533. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development activities in Railways are being

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.